



# PARSON DROVE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held on  
**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at Parson Drove Village Hall, Main Road,  
Parson Drove**

Attended by Councillors: A Rouse (Chairman), P Spriggs, P Unwin, Y Reader, G Booth and P Williams

FDC Councillors: D Cutler | CCC Councillor:

Members of the public: 0

Also Present: Sarah Phillips (Clerk)

## **32/25. To agree apologies for absence**

Apologies had been received and accepted from Fenland District Councillor M Humphrey, CCC Councillor S King and R Fowler.

## **33/25. To consider any requests by Councillors for dispensation.**

None.

## **34/25. To receive Members Declarations of Interest**

- Cllr Rouse declared a pecuniary interest in respect of Agenda Item 53/25 as an employee of FACT.
- Cllr G Booth declared a pecuniary interest in respect of Agenda Item 56/25 as he is a committee member of the Amenities 95 Management Committee.

## **35/25. Open Forum – Public participation. Agenda item time limited to 15 minutes.**

*To allow up to 3 minutes for each member of the public who wishes to address the Council.*

The village hall is now ready to arrange delivery of the planters which will be located at the front of the village hall facing the main road.

Community speed watch have spent 3 hours in Guyhirn and Parson Drove.

## **36/25. To agree the minutes of the meeting dated 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025 and 22<sup>nd</sup> January**

The minutes of the meeting dated 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025 and 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

## **37/25. Matters arising from previous minutes not covered on the agenda (for information only)**

The war memorial railings are scheduled to be painted later in the year.

Concrete blocks have been installed on Clough Bridge but no further updates of when it will be repaired. Three sets of damage have been reported so far.

## **38/25. To receive the Chairman's Report**

- All dates have been compiled for the Flag Marshall.
- It will take 7-10 days for the works to be completed on The Cage. It has been requested that the residents of 1 Station Road be asked not to park where they currently are as access is required at all times during the repair work. Cllr Rouse has agreed to speak with the residents.
- Cllr Spriggs and Cllr Rouse have walked along the proposed site from Swan Bridge to the wooden bridge at Murrow Bank and suggested the entry point be further along Murrow Bank. There are some gaps in the fence which would need to be replaced. A gate system will be needed either end and some steps will need to be installed to get onto the footbridge. Cllr Spriggs has provided a quote for £325 each end for posts and fencing of which you need to walk around to enter and will prevent bikes and quad bikes from entering. To be discussed further at the next meeting.
- Residents by the village pond are willing to help tidy this area.
- Small piece has been written to put into the newsletter.

- A discussion has taken place with FACT to arrange something similar to the Golden Event that Fenland District Council run, this is to bring awareness to residents of what they are able to get help with or able to claim for, the last event was run 2 years ago. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

**39/25. To receive the District Councillors Reports**

No report available.

**40/25. To receive the County Councillor Report**

The next full council meeting will take place on 24<sup>th</sup> February and local government reorganisation will be in 2028 for Fenland.

**41/25. Highways Matters**

(a) Street lighting

A complaint has been received for street light PC9 which hasn't been working for the last 2 years. This is the streetlight which was hit by a car and has been repeatedly chased with the District Council. The parish council have not been able to get the insurance company to register the claim for this streetlight.

(b) Any highways issues to be raised by Councillors

- Holes which had been filled on Main Road are already starting to lift.
- 3 holes have been filled along the bank by Highways who could do no more as they ran out of tarmac.

(c) Clough Bridge update

Discussed under agenda item 37/25.

**42/25. Planning Applications – Decision Updates: Nil.**

**43/25. Planning Applications - For comment:**

(a)	F/YR25/0056/VOC F/YR22/1195/F	Variation of condition 04 of planning permission F/YR22/1195/F (Erect 2-storey rear extension, porch to front and insertion of first floor window to side of existing dwelling and installation of brick slip cladding to exterior of entire dwelling) relating to materials at Woodthorne House 143 Back Road Murrow Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE13 4JW – <b>No comment</b>
(b)	F/YR25/0043/F	Erect a single storey side extension to existing dwelling at Woad Mill Farmhouse 306 Main Road Church End Parson Drove Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE13 4LF – <b>No objections, in support.</b>

**44/25. Finance Matters - To agree the outstanding payments of the Council:**

Councillors **RESOLVED** that the following payments be made.

Item	Description	Total Amount	Power to Spend	VAT Element
(a)	Clerks January pay	515.20	LG Act 1972 S112	0.00
(b)	Clerks January Expenses	30.00	LG Act 1972 S112	0.00
(c)	Clerks holiday pay from August – December (20 hours)	322.00	LG Act 1972 S112	0.00
(c)	Smith of Derby Clockmakers	314.00		52.40
(d)	TA Blackmore Ltd	4369.96	Open Spaces Act 1906 S9,10	728.32
(e)	Screwfix (D Cutler)	15.89		2.65
(f)	Unity Trust	500.00		0.00
(g)	Street Pride – Hedge cutting	<del>700.00</del> 720.00	Open Spaces Act 1906 S9,10	0.00

**45/25. Finance Matters – To ratify payments made:**

(a)	EE October Telephone Bill (Direct Debit)	24.60	LG Act 1972 S111	4.10
(b)	E-on – The Cage December Energy (Direct Debit)	43.61	Parish Councils Act 1957 S3	2.08
(c)	FACT Community Transport	236.99		0.00

--

**46/25. Finance Matters – Grant Applications**

(a) Friends of St Johns

A grant request for £1000 was received from Friends of St Johns to purchase and install a fully accessible toilet unit.

A discussion took place on how many would benefit from the toilet installation. It was proposed by Cllr Booth to grant the application request, seconded by Cllr Rouse. With a majority of councillors in support and one abstained the proposal was **RESOLVED**.

**47/25. Finance Matters – Wrydecroft Small Grants Programme**

Discussed under agenda item 47/25.

**48/25. Finance Matters – CILCA Qualification – allocated hours to clerk**

The clerk explained that two other councils are paying for the clerk to complete CILCA and asked if the parish council would contribute to the hours to complete the course.

After a discussion it was **RESOLVED** that as the other parish councils are contributing £400 each that the parish council would be willing to contribute up to £400 for the clerk's time to complete the training, the funds are available and to be taken from the training budget.

**49/25. Policies**

(a) Financial Regulations

It was agreed to approve the financial regulations.

(b) Standing orders

It was agreed to approve the standing orders.

**50/25. For councillors to discuss the issue of moles and agree an action**

There is an issue with moles on the green. The clerk was approved to spend up to £500 on the removal of the moles and asked to investigate the cost of regular visits.

**51/25. For councillors to discuss receive costings of purchasing a BT Box**

It was **RESOLVED** that the clerk arrange the purchase of the BT box for £1. The clerk is to check that all electrics will be safe.

The clerk provided details of funded defibrillators; the parish council agreed for the funding to be applied for by the clerk.

**52/25. For Councillors to receive an update for FACT Shuttle Bus Service**

There is still only one person using the shuttle bus service. A revised poster has been created by Cllr Cutler and it is hoped that free flyers can be obtained to help with advertising.

**53/25. For Councillors to receive an update on the Newsletter**

Most areas have now been covered for delivering the newsletter. Main Road still requires a volunteer. Councillors agreed to help deliver the newsletter down Main Road if needed.

**54/25. The Cage Maintenance**

The item was partially discussed 38/25.

Cllr Spriggs would like to look at heating which would preserve paper and make the building more usable. It was agreed that Friends of the Cage to look further into this at their March meeting and bring back any suggestions to the parish council. Internet availability would also be useful and should be investigated.

**55/25. To receive Amenities 95 Management Committee Report**

There is a consultation on changes to the fencing around the field due to security and dog fouling incidents.

--

The AGM will be held on 15<sup>th</sup> March.

**56/25. To consider future meeting dates:**

The following dates were agreed.

Annual Parish Meeting – 9<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00pm followed by Parish Council Meeting

11<sup>th</sup> June 2025, 9<sup>th</sup> July 2025, 13<sup>th</sup> August 2025, 10<sup>th</sup> September 2025, 8<sup>th</sup> October 2025, 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025, 10<sup>th</sup> December 2025, 7<sup>th</sup> January 2026, 21<sup>st</sup> January 2026 (Budget setting), 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026, 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026, 8<sup>th</sup> April 2026, 13<sup>th</sup> May 2026.

**57/25. To collate agenda items for the next meeting**

- The Cage – To receive an update from Friends of the Cage re heating.
- Review Risk Register on assets and finance
- Review and adopt asset register
- Review actions from last year’s internal audit report
- North Level Walkway
- FACT open day
- Grass cutting contract for next season (receive tenders)
- Allotments & Gardens

May agenda:

- Nominations for John Bends Charity

**58/25. Date of Next Meeting**

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025    7:00pm                      Parson Drove Village Hall, Main Road, Parson Drove

The meeting was closed at 9.40pm.